



LEGAL NOTICE NO.....

THE KENYA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION ORDER, 2026

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THE STATE CORPORATIONS ACT

(Cap. 446)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 3(1) of the State Corporations Act, I, William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, make the following Order—

THE KENYA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION ORDER, 2026

	PART I—PRELIMINARY
Citation.	1. This Order may be cited as the Kenya Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Order, 2026.
Interpretation.	2. In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires— “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Centre constituted under paragraph 7; “Cabinet Secretary” means the Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to health; “Centre” means the Kenya Centre for Disease Control and Prevention established under paragraph 4; “Director-General” means the Director-General of the Centre appointed under paragraph 15; “health security” means the capacities, systems and measures for the prevention, detection and assessment of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from public health threats and emergencies; “International Health Regulations” means the International Health Regulations (2005), as amended; “public health emergency” means an occurrence or imminent threat of disease or other health condition that poses, or is likely to pose, a significant risk to public health and requires a coordinated response; “public health events” means an outbreak or rapidly evolving situation or occurrence that may have negative consequences for human health and includes events that have not yet caused disease or illness but that have the potential to cause disease through exposure to infected or contaminated food, water, animals, manufactured products or environments; “public health risk” means the likelihood of an event that may adversely affect the health of a human population, with particular emphasis on an event that may spread internationally or may present a serious and direct danger to public health; “public health threat” means a disease, condition, event, hazard or other occurrence

	that poses, or is likely to pose, a risk to the health of the population; and “surveillance” means the systematic and continuous collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of health-related data for purposes of public health action.
Object of the Order.	3. The object of this Order is to establish the Kenya Centre for Disease Control and Prevention as a national institution for disease prevention and control, health security and preparedness for and response to public health threats and emergencies.
	PART II—ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRE
Establishment of the Centre.	4. (1) There is established a state corporation to be known as the Kenya Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. (2) The Centre shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and shall, in its corporate name, be capable of— (a) suing and being sued; (b) acquiring, holding, charging and disposing of movable and immovable property; (c) entering into contracts; and (d) doing or performing all such other things or acts as may lawfully be done or performed by a body corporate for the proper discharge of its functions under this Order.
Headquarters of the Centre.	5. (1) The headquarters of the Centre shall be in Nairobi or such other place as the Cabinet Secretary may, on the recommendation of the Board, determine. (2) Despite subparagraph (1), the Centre shall, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Constitution, ensure reasonable access to its services in all parts of the Republic.
Functions of the Centre.	6. The functions of the Centre shall be to— (a) establish, maintain and coordinate national systems for the surveillance, monitoring, detection, reporting, investigation, prevention and control of diseases, outbreaks and other public health risks and events including emerging and re-emerging infections; (b) coordinate, in collaboration with county governments, national preparedness for, response to and recovery from public health emergencies, including through risk and vulnerability assessments and the establishment and maintenance of public health emergency operations

	centres; (c) establish and maintain national and regional public health reference laboratories and coordinate laboratory networks and systems for the detection, confirmation, referral and handling of diseases, pathogens, biological materials and other agents of public health concern; (d) develop, manage and maintain systems to collect, analyse, report, and interpret data on public health emergencies in order to detect public health threats, guide health interventions and set health security priorities; (e) conduct and facilitate research and scientific and technological innovation relating to public health and health security matters; (f) develop, operate, and maintain a National Biosecurity and Bio surveillance system for preventing, detecting, research and responding to biological threats and public health emergencies of national concern; (g) ensure biosafety and laboratory biosecurity, including secure handling, storage, transport and disposal of pathogens and biological materials; (h) establish biobanks for the collection, storage and management of biological materials; (i) coordinate surveillance, risk assessment and early warning on diseases including zoonotic diseases, foodborne diseases and other food safety threats, anti-microbial resistance and provide scientific and technical advice to relevant national and county agencies on their prevention and control; (j) coordinate surveillance, preparedness and response to public health risks at points of entry in accordance with applicable written law and the International Health Regulations; (k) perform the functions assigned to the Centre as the National IHR Authority and coordinate and support the implementation, monitoring and reporting of Kenya's obligations under applicable regional and international instruments relating to disease prevention and control, health security and public health emergencies;
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	(l) develop and strengthen the capacity of the public health workforce in disease surveillance, field epidemiology, laboratory practice, disease prevention and control and public health emergency preparedness and response; (m) provide technical and policy advice and make recommendations to the national and county governments and other relevant institutions on matters relating to disease prevention and control, health security and public health emergencies; (n) collaborate with relevant persons and bodies within or outside Kenya in furtherance of the functions of the Centre; and (o) perform such other functions as may be conferred on the Centre by this Order or any other written law.
	PART III—GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE
Board of Directors of the Centre.	7. (1) There shall be a Board of Directors of the Centre comprising— (a) a non-executive Chairperson appointed by the President; (b) the Principal Secretary in the Ministry responsible for matters relating to health or a representative designated in writing; (c) the Principal Secretary to the National Treasury or a representative designated in writing; (d) the Principal Secretary in the Ministry responsible for matters relating to internal security and national administration or a representative designated in writing; (e) the Director-General of Health; (f) the Attorney-General or a representative designated in writing; (g) two persons nominated by the Council of Governors and appointed by the Cabinet Secretary; (h) three members, not being public officers, appointed by the Cabinet Secretary; and (i) the Director-General, who shall be an ex officio member of the Board.

	(2) The appointment of the Chairperson and the members under subparagraph (1)(g) and (h) shall be by notice in the Gazette.
Qualifications for appointment.	8. A person qualifies for appointment as the Chairperson or a member under paragraph 7(1)(g) or (h) if that person— (a) holds a bachelor’s degree from a university recognised in Kenya; (b) has at least seven years’ experience in public health, health sciences, finance, economics, law, governance or any other relevant field; (c) has at least five years’ experience at senior management level; and (d) meets the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.
Term of office.	9. The Chairperson and a member appointed under paragraph 7(1)(g) or (h) shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one further term.
Powers of the Board.	10. (1) The Board shall exercise its powers and perform its functions in accordance with the State Corporations Act. (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subparagraph (1), the Board shall have power to— (a) provide strategic direction and oversight over the affairs of the Centre; (b) approve the policies, plans, programmes and budgets of the Centre; (c) oversee the management of the assets and resources of the Centre; and (d) do all such other things as may be necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Centre.
Vacation of office.	11. The office of the Chairperson or a member appointed under paragraph 7(1)(g) or (h) shall become vacant if the holder— (a) resigns by notice in writing to the appointing authority; (b) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without reasonable cause; (c) is adjudged bankrupt; (d) is convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a term exceeding

	six months without the option of a fine; (e) becomes incapable of performing the functions of the office; (f) is removed from office in accordance with the Constitution or any other written law; or (g) dies.
Committees of the Board.	12. (1) The Board may establish such committees as may be necessary for the proper performance of its functions. (2) The Board may co-opt into a committee any person whose knowledge or expertise is necessary for the performance of the functions of the committee. (3) A person co-opted under subparagraph (2) may participate in the deliberations of the committee but shall not vote.
Meetings of the Board.	13. The meetings and procedure of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with the State Corporations Act.
Delegation by the Board.	14. The Board may, by resolution, delegate to a committee of the Board, a member of the Board or the Director-General any of its powers or functions under this Order, subject to such conditions as the Board may determine.
Director-General.	15. (1) The Board shall, through an open, transparent and competitive process, appoint a Director-General who shall be the chief executive officer of the Centre. (2) A person qualifies for appointment as the Director-General if that person— (a) holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in healthcare sciences or a related field from a university recognised in Kenya; (b) has at least ten years' relevant professional experience, at least five of which shall be at senior management level; and (c) meets the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution. (3) The Director-General shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one further term. (4) The Director-General shall be responsible to the Board for— (a) the day-to-day management of the Centre;

	(b) the implementation of the decisions of the Board; (c) the management and supervision of the staff of the Centre; and (d) the performance of such other functions as may be assigned by the Board or conferred by any written law.
Removal of the Director-General.	16. The Director-General may be removed from office by the Board in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment, the Employment Act, the State Corporations Act and any other written law applicable to the appointment, tenure or removal of the Director-General.
Corporation Secretary.	17. (1) The Board shall appoint a Corporation Secretary or designate a suitably qualified member of staff of the Centre to serve as Corporation Secretary, who shall be the Secretary to the Board. (2) A person appointed or designated under subparagraph (1) shall be a certified public secretary in good standing.
Staff of the Centre.	18. The Board may appoint such staff as may be necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Centre on such terms and conditions as may be determined in accordance with the State Corporations Act and any other applicable written law.
Remuneration.	19. The Chairperson, members of the Board and staff of the Centre shall be paid such remuneration, fees and allowances as may be determined in accordance with applicable written law.
Common seal.	20. (1) The common seal of the Centre shall be kept in the custody of the Corporation Secretary and shall not be used except with the authority of the Board. (2) The affixing of the common seal shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairperson and the Director-General or such other persons as the Board may authorise. (3) The common seal of the Centre, when affixed to an instrument and duly authenticated, shall be judicially and officially noticed.
	PART IV—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Funds of the Centre.	21. The funds of the Centre shall consist of— (a) monies appropriated by the National Assembly for the purposes of the Centre; (b) monies accruing to the Centre in the performance of its functions; (c) gifts, grants, donations or endowments made to the Centre; and (d) monies from any other lawful source.
Financial year.	22. The financial year of the Centre shall be the period of twelve months ending on the thirtieth day of June in each year.
Annual estimates.	23. The annual estimates of revenue and expenditure of the Centre shall be prepared and approved in accordance with the State Corporations Act and the Public Finance Management Act.
Accounts and audit.	24. (1) The Centre shall keep proper books and records of account in accordance with the State Corporations Act and the Public Finance Management Act. (2) The accounts of the Centre shall be audited and reported upon in accordance with the Public Audit Act.
Annual report.	25. (1) The Board shall prepare and submit to the Cabinet Secretary an annual report on the operations and performance of the Centre in accordance with applicable written law. (2) The annual report shall include— (a) the financial statements of the Centre; (b) a report on the performance of the Centre against its approved plans and performance targets; and (c) such other information as may be required under any written law.
	PART VI—SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS
Interpretation of Part.	26. In this Part— “former Institute” means the Kenya National Public Health Institute established under the Kenya National Public Health Institute Order, 2022; “former Order” means the Kenya National Public Health Institute Order, 2022.

Revocation of L.N. No. 14 of 2022.	27. The Kenya National Public Health Institute Order, 2022 is revoked.
References to the former Institute.	28. Any reference in any written law or in any document or instrument to the former Institute shall, on and after the commencement of this Act, be construed as a reference to the Centre.
Agreements and other instruments.	29. (1) Any agreement, contract, deed, memorandum of understanding or other instrument relating to a function vested in the Centre and subsisting immediately before the commencement of this Order shall continue in force as if the Centre were a party to it. (2) Any lawful direction, decision, authorisation or other instrument made or issued by the former Institute and subsisting immediately before the commencement of this Order shall, so far as it relates to a function vested in the Centre, continue in force as if made or issued by the Centre.
Assets, rights and liabilities.	30. (1) All assets, rights and liabilities which, before the commencement of this Order were vested in, acquired under, held for and on behalf of the former Institute shall, on commencement of this Order and without further assurance, vest in the Centre. (2) Where an asset, right and liability was in the course of being vested or transferred to the former Institute but the vesting had not been completed, the Centre shall carry on and complete the vesting and ensure the asset, right and liability vest in the Centre. (3) All assets and rights of the former Institute relating to the division of monitoring and evaluation, health informatics and research and innovation shall, on commencement of this Order, vest in the National Government and be administered by the Ministry responsible for health, and any liabilities relating to those divisions shall be assumed by the National Government. (4) Every officer having the power or duty to effect or amend any entry in a register relating to property, or to issue or to amend any certificate or other document effecting or evidencing title to property, shall, without payment of a fee or other charge and upon request made by or on behalf of the Centre, do all such things as are by law necessary to

	give final effect to the transfer of property referred to under subparagraph (1). (5) Any question arising as to whether an asset, right or liability falls within subparagraph (1) or (2) or (3) shall be determined by the Cabinet Secretary in consultation with the relevant public authorities.
Annual estimates of the former Institute.	31. The approved estimates of the former Institute for the financial year in which this Order comes into operation shall, to the extent that they relate to functions vested in the Centre, be deemed to be the estimates of the Centre for the remainder of that financial year.
Legal proceedings.	32. Any legal proceedings by or against the former Institute relating to a function vested in the Centre and subsisting immediately before the commencement of this Order may be continued by or against the Centre and shall not abate by reason of the commencement of this Order.
Staff of the former Institute.	33. (1) A person who, before the commencement of this Order was an employee of the former Institute in the following divisions, shall at the commencement of this Order serve as a member of staff of the Centre— (a) Division of Disease Surveillance and Response; (b) Division of Vector Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases; (c) Division of Zoonotic Diseases; (d) Division of National Public Health Laboratories; (e) Division of Quality Improvement Infection Prevention Control and Antimicrobial Resistance; (f) Division of Health Emergencies and Disaster Risk Management; (g) Division of Port Health; (h) Division of Food Safety; (i) Public Health Emergency Operations Centre; and (j) Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program. (2) A person who, before the commencement of this Order, had elected to transition to the former Institute and was appointed by the Board of the former Institute, shall, upon commencement of this Order, be deemed to be a member of staff of the

	Centre, irrespective of the division from which that person transitioned. (3) A public officer who, immediately before the commencement of this Order, was serving in a division vested in the former Institute under the former Order, other than a division specified in paragraph 34(1), and who had not transitioned to the former Institute shall be given an opportunity to elect, within ninety days of the commencement of this Order, whether to serve in the Centre or remain in the public service (4) A public officer who elects to serve in the Centre under subparagraph (3) shall be appointed to the Centre in accordance with applicable written law. (5) A person who does not elect to serve in the Centre within the period specified in subparagraph (3) shall remain in the public service and may be redeployed in accordance with applicable written law. (6) A person who becomes a member of staff of the Centre under this paragraph shall retain the salary, grade, accrued benefits, pension rights and continuity of service held immediately before the transition, subject to subsequent placement in the approved organisational structure of the Centre in accordance with applicable written law.
Functions retained in the Ministry.	34. (1) The divisions of monitoring and evaluation, health informatics and research and innovation previously vested in the former Institute shall, upon commencement of this Order, be performed by the Ministry responsible for health. (2) A public officer serving in a division specified in subparagraph (1) who had not transitioned to the former Institute before the commencement of this Order shall remain in the public service.

Made on the....., 2026.

WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO,
President.